

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 11/15/2005, 7:15PM, Town Hall Annex 2nd Floor Conference Room

Members present: Joe Cahill, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Jeff Maxtutis, Ron Santosuoso, Scott Smith, Ed Starr

Associates: Guillermo Bahamon, Erik Moore

1. Public Comment

Ted and Maria Lawcewicz expressed concern about near misses at the Oakland/Gray intersection, and requested a stop-ahead sign. They also suggested stop signs all along Oakland. We advised them to send specific requests for action to the Selectmen.

Barbara Murphy was concerned about the on-street overflow parking near the Recreation Center, especially during the 12/10 jamboree. We recommended she contact the recreation department and police.

George Berberian expressed the following concerns about Broadway near Rawson Rd.:

- No enforcement of the 2-hour limit in this small business district.
- Oil trucks speeding down the street (daytime)

Scott Smith offered to communicate with the police regarding enforcement of the 2-hour limit. We asked George to get the names of the trucking companies, so that the police could send them a letter advising them to obey speed limits, similar to what was done on Pleasant Street.

Steve Makowka expressed a concern with the lack of curbing at the Winslow/Russell Terrace corner. We agreed that Ron Santosuoso and Elisabeth Carr-Jones would work with him regarding curbing and alternating parking in the Russell St area.

2. The minutes of October 25, 2005 were unanimously approved.

3. Ed Starr reviewed the list of outstanding items

4. Downing Square

DPW plans to remove the trial after 11/21. We went around the table with comments and suggestions: Ed Starr noted a large number of pedestrians (107 in one hour in the morning). Erik Moore noted that access from the north has become a bit easier. Joe Cahill noted that the left turn from Bow to Lowell is difficult, and is also a fairly frequent maneuver. Elisabeth Carr Jones suggested that the lane between Bow and Lowell Streets (just east of Downing Square) could become a two-way lane. Scott Smith noted that although the raised crosswalk works fine at 15 MPH, many motorists were approaching it much more slowly.

5. Quincy Street

Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported on Janice Bakey's concerns about Quincy Street near Gray Street. There are faded stop signs at Gray, and two crosswalks across Quincy at either side of Gray. We voted to recommend

- Replacement of the stop signs
- Warning signs (total of 4) at the two crosswalks.

6. Dallin School

Ron Santosuoso noted that the Town has repaved George Street. Jeff Maxtutis noted that he will be meeting with the Dallin School Council to review road improvements. He asked about the process of accepting a private way (George Street), so that the Town could make further improvements. Ron noted that the town has not accepted a private way in 20 years, and that there is a possibility that the right-of-way would have to be 40' wide. Ron will research the town standards for accepting a one-way street.

7. Highland Avenue

The issue is conflicts between opposite direction traffic in the section near Mass. Ave. Erik Moore reported high parking occupancy during the lunch hour. Elimination of parking on one side could reduce the supply enough to hurt local businesses. Furthermore, a parking restriction already exists on the section closest to Mass Ave. After agreeing that a change to parking regulations was not necessary, we unanimously approved the recommendation to paint a yellow centerline in the section nearest Mass Ave.

8. Access Road

This is a road between Water Street and Mill Street that runs parallel to the Minuteman Bikeway. Residents have complained about speeding traffic. We agreed that speed humps might be an appropriate device, but their effect (noise) on abutters needs to be considered.

9. Park Avenue Crosswalk

Ralph Elwell presented a proposal for a new crosswalk at Park Avenue and Oakland. He noted that it is near a bus stop, is on a walking route to Ottoson School, and is over 500' away from the nearest existing crosswalk. Scott Smith asked about the adequacy of street lighting at this location.

It was voted (Ed Starr opposed, the other 6 members in favor) to install a crosswalk at this location, and provide an in-road pedestrian warning sign in seasons when possible after checking the adequacy of street lighting.

10. Town Projects

Ron Santosuoso reported that the Summer Street project has been closed down for the winter. Ed Starr reported that the first phase of the Mass Ave corridor project now extends between the Cambridge line and Pond Lane.

11. East Arlington Parking

Scott Smith reported that the survey would be distributed soon.

12. 264 Mass Ave.

Scott Smith presented recommendations:

- to keep the proposed crosswalk near Harlow Street in the Mass Ave corridor plan
- Given the safety issues with crosswalks on 4-lane roads, not to install a new crosswalk at this time.

The recommendations were unanimously approved.

14. Safe Routes to School

Ed Starr, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, and Guillermo Bahamon agreed to pursue information on the \$600M federal Safe Routes to Schools funding for potential use for sidewalks around schools.

15. Lockeland/ Mass

Joe Cahill presented traffic volumes at Lockeland and Mass Ave.

16. Vision 2020

Scott Smith presented some potential questions for the Vision 2020 survey. He will work with Vision 2020 to see if there is space to include the questions.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Handouts:

Agenda package with agenda, project list, rotation list, 2006 meeting dates, MPO meetings, outstanding actions, letter from Board of Selectmen regarding Crosby Street, draft “work description”, draft crosswalk management outline – from Ed Starr

Minutes from October 2005 – from Scott Smith

Report on crosswalk at Park Avenue and Oakland Avenue – from Ralph Elwell

Recommendations for 264 Mass Ave, and possible Vision 2020 questions - from Scott Smith

Downing Square survey and photos of Quincy Street – from Elisabeth Carr-Jones